

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of formatting content for display on a device comprising:
 - maintaining one or more data sources of information objects comprising at least one computer language object, at least one browser object, and at least one device object;
 - receiving from the device a request for information over a global communications network;
 - identifying a device type, the device type comprising a communication format, a browser type, and a hardware type;
 - retrieving the content in response to the request, wherein the retrieved content is formatted in a standard markup language regardless of the identified device type;
 - retrieving from at least one of the data sources one of the computer language objects for the identified communication format, one of the browser objects for the identified browser type, and one of the device objects for the identified hardware type;
 - based on the retrieved computer language object, browser object and device object, reformatting the content into a language that enables display of the content on the device; and
 - delivering the reformatted content to the device over the global communications network..
2. The method of claim 1 wherein identifying the device type comprises:
 - reading one or more codes embedded in the request.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the one or more codes comprise one or more header fields.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the browser objects comprises a browser version object.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the standard markup language comprises at least one of XHTML and XHTML Basic.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the communication format comprises at least one of HDML, WML, HTML, cHTML and voiceXML.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the browser type comprises at least one of a wireless phone browser, a personal computer browser, a voice browser and a personal data assistant browser.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the hardware type comprises at least one of a personal computer, a wireless telephone, a telephone voice interface and a personal data assistant.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one computer language object, browser object and device object are arranged in a hierarchy of objects, said hierarchy of objects comprising at least three layers, and wherein each said object in a first layer of said hierarchy inherits functionality from each said object in a second layer of said hierarchy below said first layer.

10. A method of formatting data requested from an application program interface via an application comprising:

maintaining one or more data sources of information objects comprising at least one interface object;

receiving from the application a request for the data over a global communications network;

identifying an interface;

retrieving the data in response to the request, wherein the retrieved data is formatted in a standard markup language regardless of the identified interface;

retrieving from at least one of the data sources the interface object for the identified interface;

based on the retrieved interface object, reformatting the data to enable processing of the data in the application to account for data retrieval speed restrictions, memory restrictions and processing capabilities; and

delivering the reformatted data to the application over the global communications network..

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the data is further reformatted to enable processing of the data in the application to account for format translations.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the format translations comprise schema remapping.

13. The method of claim 10 wherein the application is operating on a client.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the client is a user device.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein the client is a server.

16. A system for formatting content for display on a device comprising:

one or more data sources of information objects comprising at least one computer language object, at least one browser object, and at least one device object; and

one or more servers that receive a request for information from the device over a global communications network; identify a device type, the device type comprising a communication format, a browser type, and a hardware type; retrieve the content in response to the request, wherein the retrieved content is formatted in a standard markup

language regardless of the identified device type; retrieve from at least one of the data sources one of the computer language objects for the identified communication format, one of the browser objects for the identified browser type, and one of the device objects for the identified hardware type; based on the retrieved computer language object, browser object and device object, reformat the content into a language that enables display of the content on the device; and deliver the reformatted content to the device over the global communications network.

17. The system of claim 16 wherein the at least one computer language object, browser object and device object are arranged in a hierarchy of objects, said hierarchy of objects comprising at least three layers, and wherein each said object in a first layer of said hierarchy inherits functionality from each said object in a second layer of said hierarchy below said first layer.

18. A system for formatting data requested from an application program interface via an application comprising:

one or more data sources of information objects comprising at least one interface object;

one or more clients that receive from the application a request for the data over a global communications network; identify an interface; retrieve the data in response to the request, wherein the retrieved data is formatted in a standard markup language regardless of the identified interface; retrieve from at least one of the data sources the interface object for the identified interface; based on the retrieved interface object, reformat the data to enable processing of the data in the application to account for data retrieval speed

restrictions, memory restrictions and processing capabilities; and deliver the reformatted data to the application over the global communications network..

19. The system of claim 18 wherein the application is operating on a client.
20. The system of claim 19 wherein the client is a user device.
21. The system of claim 19 wherein the client is a server.
22. The method of claim 18 wherein the data is further reformatted to enable processing of the data in the application to account for format translations.
23. The method of claim 22 wherein the format translations comprise schema remapping.